

PENALTY DECISIONS DENY AVENUE



TWO inches of snow covered the pitch at Wycombe on Saturday for the only game played in the Isthmian League, which saw Walthamstow Avenue go down 1-0, their first defeat in nine games.

And it may have been the conditions that denied Avenue two penalties, after Chris Wright then Devon Gayle were brought down in the box and the referee gave Wycombe the benefit of the doubt, no doubt allowing for the snow.

The conditions made the sloping pitch extra tricky, and made turning difficult — as Paul Wilkins discovered with two shots off-target.

One of Avenue's best moves saw Alan Hunter

beat three defenders and pass back to Gayle, who shot over.

Avenue were without regular keeper Roy Drake, a flu victim, but reserve keeper Phil Jenkins made two outstanding saves in the first half.

Avenue also lost Brian Kelly after 15 minutes with a sprained leg, Liam Gallagher substituting.

Winner

The game slowed down in the second half, Bob Dell netting the winner for Wycombe in the 76th minute after a Kevin Collins header hit the bar.

Avenue's fixtures were further complicated with the postponements of the Essex Senior Cup quarter final match against Harlow Town, which will now be played next Thursday.

Meanwhile, injury victims Steve Jones and Graham Stewart are making progress, but have been denied a run-out in the reserves because of the weather.



PHIL JENKINS: Outstanding saves (x423).



PAUL WILKINS: Shots on the turn (x424).